

JAMES C. CHRISTENSEN

# PERSONAL ILLUMINATIONS

## VOL. II EXPLORATION



MY TRAVEL JOURNAL



# VOL. II EXPLORATION

MY TRAVEL JOURNAL

Explore the world of travel accompanied by the art and imagination of James C. Christensen. Whether you are preparing for a trip and need a travel journal or you want to give one as a gift to a traveling friend, you will love *Exploration*, volume two in the Personal Illuminations series.

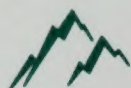
Filled with charming illustrations, this journal teaches you some cardinal rules that will help you enjoy yourself more while visiting abroad, including:

- Travel light—leave the emotional baggage behind.
- Be curious; listen more; talk less.
- Visit the fish market; notice the gargoyles; talk with the street sweepers.
- Sit still in a public place and take it all in.

*Exploration* helps you notice and appreciate differences between cultures—including food, customs, sacred places, local legends, and dress. This travel journal will help you record your experiences, and give you ideas for new experiences, that will make your trip more meaningful and preserve your memories in a delightful way for when you've come home again.

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Major works of James C. Christensen are available as limited edition fine art prints and three-dimensional collectibles published by The Greenwich Workshop, Inc. [www.greenwichworkshop.com](http://www.greenwichworkshop.com)



SHADOW  
MOUNTAIN

VOL. II  
EXPLORATION

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PERSONAL ILLUMINATIONS

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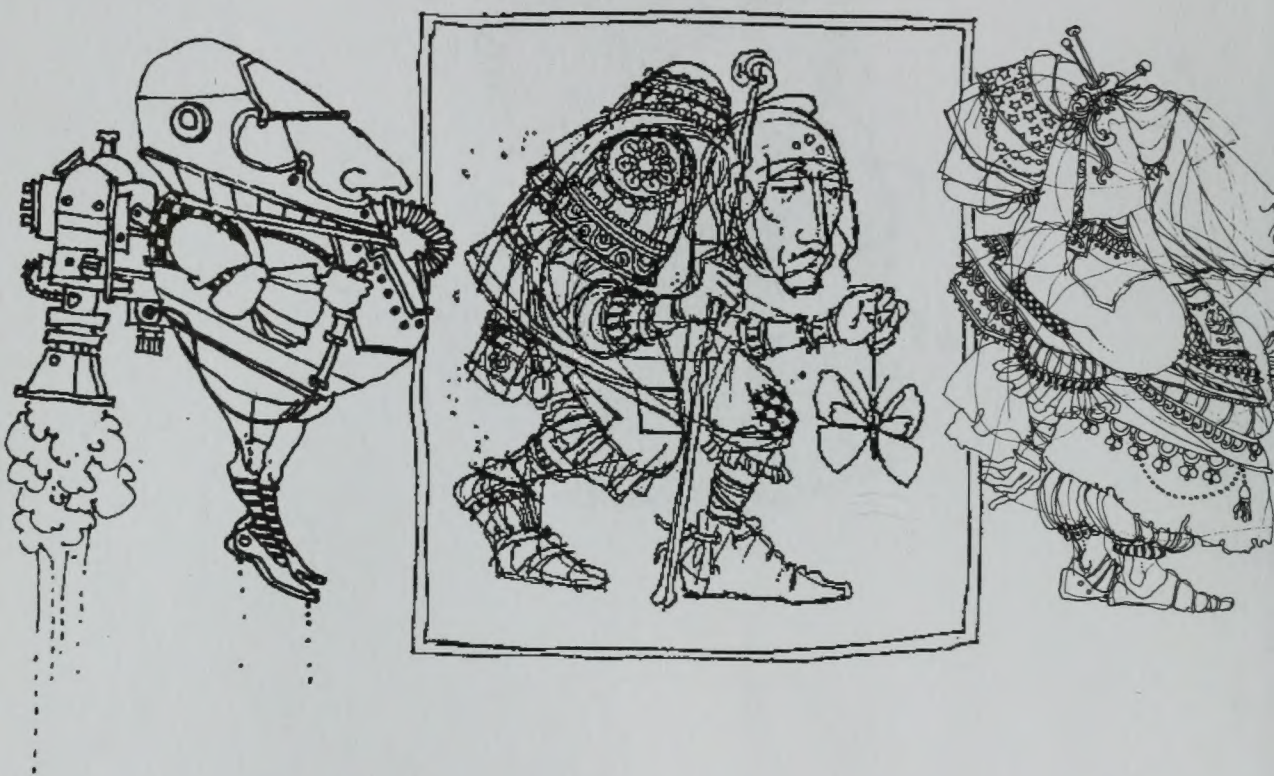


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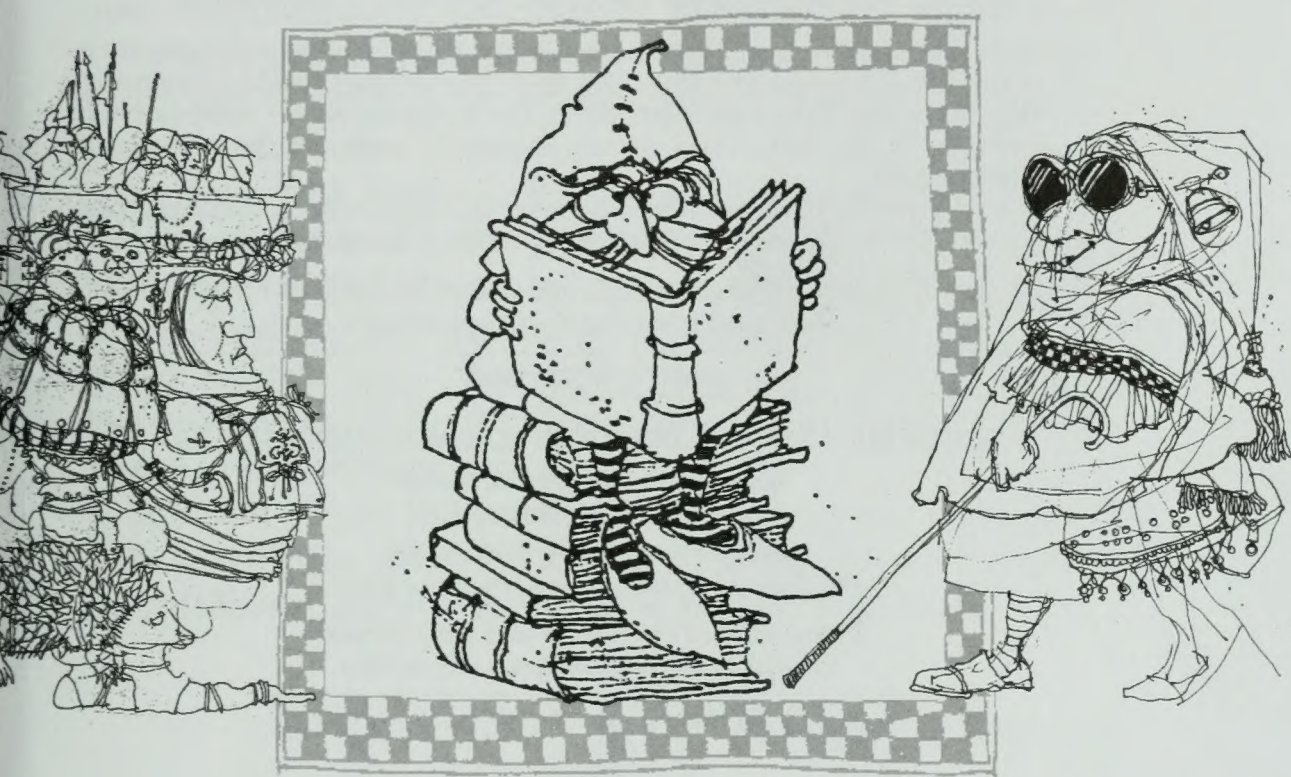
# MY TRAVEL JOURNAL



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SHADOW  
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*Imagination: My Creative Journal*

*Enumeration: My Book of Lists*

*Illumination: My Spiritual Journal*

*The Personal Illuminations Journal (hardcover)*

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# INTRODUCTION

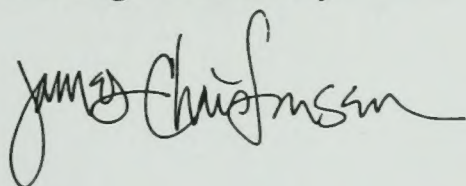
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J A M E S   C.   C H R I S T E N S E N

I carry a journal or sketchbook with me most of the time. Everything goes in there, from ticket stubs to ideas for new paintings, from memories to books I want to read and movies I want to see. When I travel to new places, my journal fills up with impressions, sketches, menus, memories, maps, and shopping lists. Because we have left our day-to-day lives temporarily behind, travel presents a unique opportunity for recording our experiences and reactions to new people and places.

So take this book with you and fill it up with your unique observations about your trip and about how what you observe might be changing you. You can paste in your train schedule, but remember to note in the margin how many women you counted wearing saris, or how many men played cards in each train car, or how many children stared at the color of *your* skin.

You don't have to leave the country to use this book, or even leave your state. All you need to do is start to notice how different people do the same things differently.

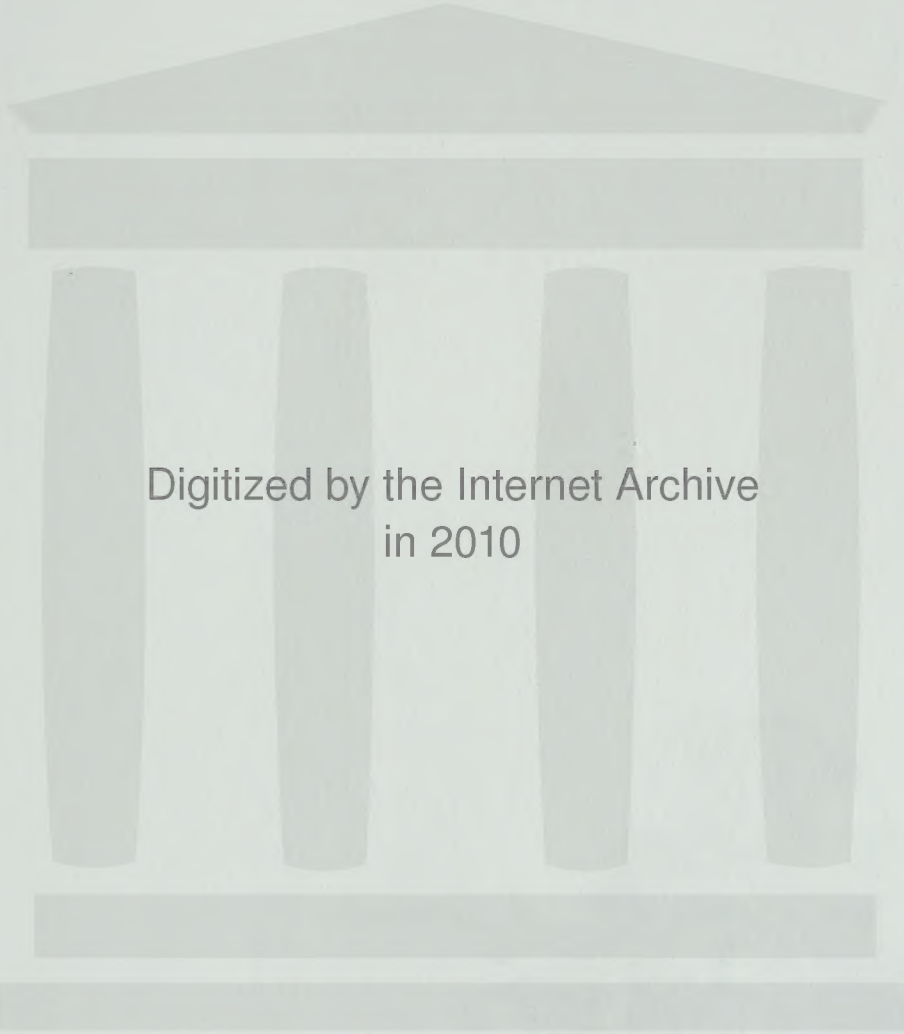
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James C. Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Christensen".





IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET OUT TO SEE NEW PLACES, EVEN IF YOUR HOME COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR A VACATION DESTINATION OR A FAIRY-TALE CASTLE.





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# TRAVEL LIGHT.

LEAVE THE EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE AT HOME.

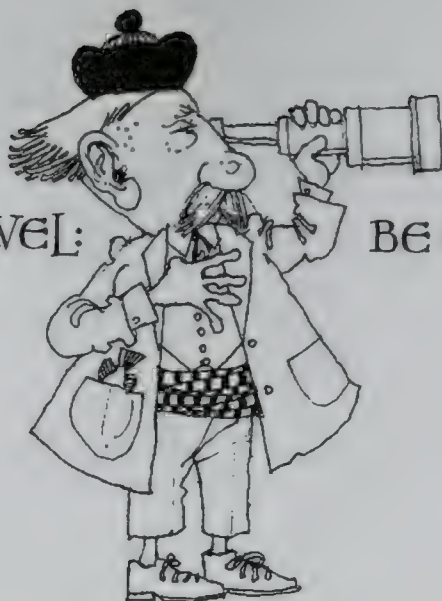






...

THE FIRST RULE OF TRAVEL: BE CURIOUS.



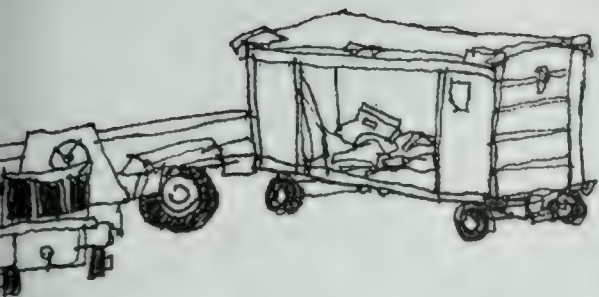






WHEN WE TRAVEL WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE SOMETHING NEW AT EVERY TURN. EVEN THE "GETTING THERE" ON AIRPLANES, BUSES, SHIPS, AND TRAINS HOLDS NEW EXPERIENCES IF YOU PAY ATTENTION.





WHAT HAPPENS ON THE WAY TO WHERE  
YOU'RE GOING?

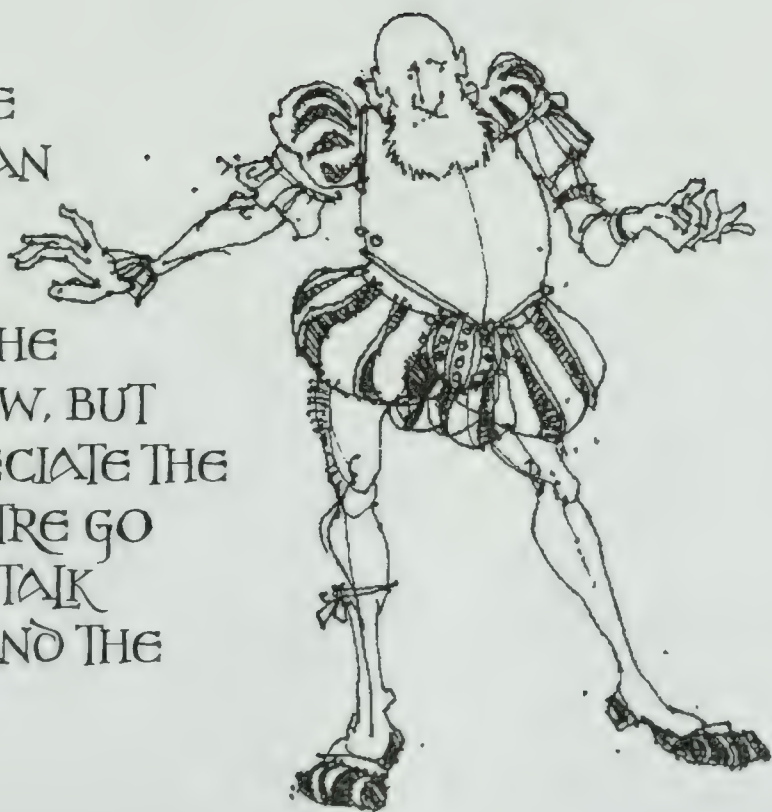
# TRAVEL THIRD-CLASS

TO EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE, STEP  
OUTSIDE THE HOTEL OR TOUR GROUP OR  
ORGANIZED PLAN FOR THE DAY.





TRAVEL IS LIKE THE  
THEATRE~YOU CAN  
GET A BOX SEAT  
AND HAVE A  
GREAT VIEW OF THE  
REHEARSED SHOW, BUT  
TO REALLY APPRECIATE THE  
LIFE OF THE THEATRE GO  
BACKSTAGE AND TALK  
TO THE ACTORS AND THE  
STAGECREW.



WHEN YOU TRAVEL DO THINGS  
YOU MIGHT NOT DO AT HOME:  
LOOK INSIDE OPEN WINDOWS





STARE (DISCREETLY)



# PLAY STATUES

DON'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT SITTING STILL IN PUBLIC FOR LONG STRETCHES OF TIME. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO REST YOUR FEET AND OPEN YOUR EYES.





YOU HAVE TWO EARS  
AND ONE MOUTH.  
LISTEN MORE, TALK LESS.



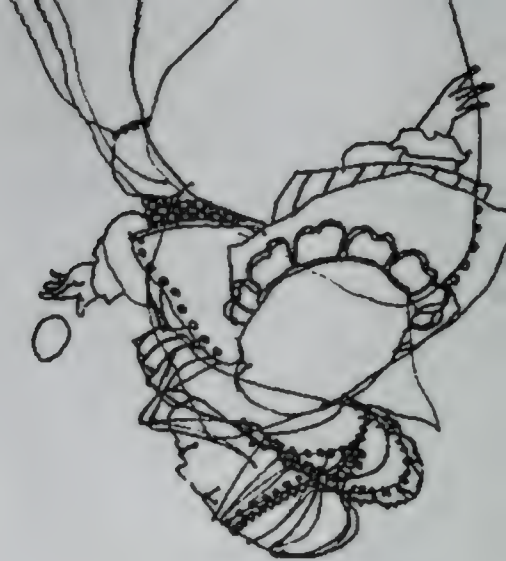
# COMMENTS OVERHEARD IN LINE TO SEE MICHELANGELO'S DAVID.



- \* HOW MANY OF THESE DAVIDS DID MICHELANGELO CARVE?
- \* NO FLASH PLEASE
- \* IS THIS IT? IS THIS ALL THERE IS?
- \* HE'S NOT WEARING A FIGLEAF!!
- \* NO FLASH PHOTOS
- \* I FEEL LIKE THE TIN MAN - MY JOINTS NEED A LITTLE OIL
- \* I CRIED WHEN I SAW IT.
- \* NO FLASH
- \* WHY ARE YOU STOPPING AND READING EVERYTHING?



THE BEST THING  
ABOUT TRAVEL  
IS THAT IT CAN TURN  
ONE'S ASSUMPTIONS  
UPSIDE DOWN.



WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

IN ISRAEL:

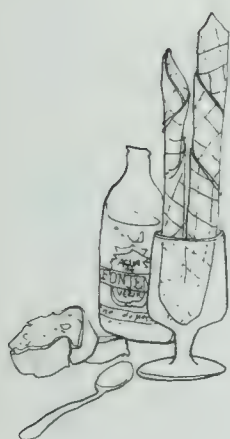
TURNIPS AND YOGURT

•  
IN ENGLAND:

SMOKED KIPPERS

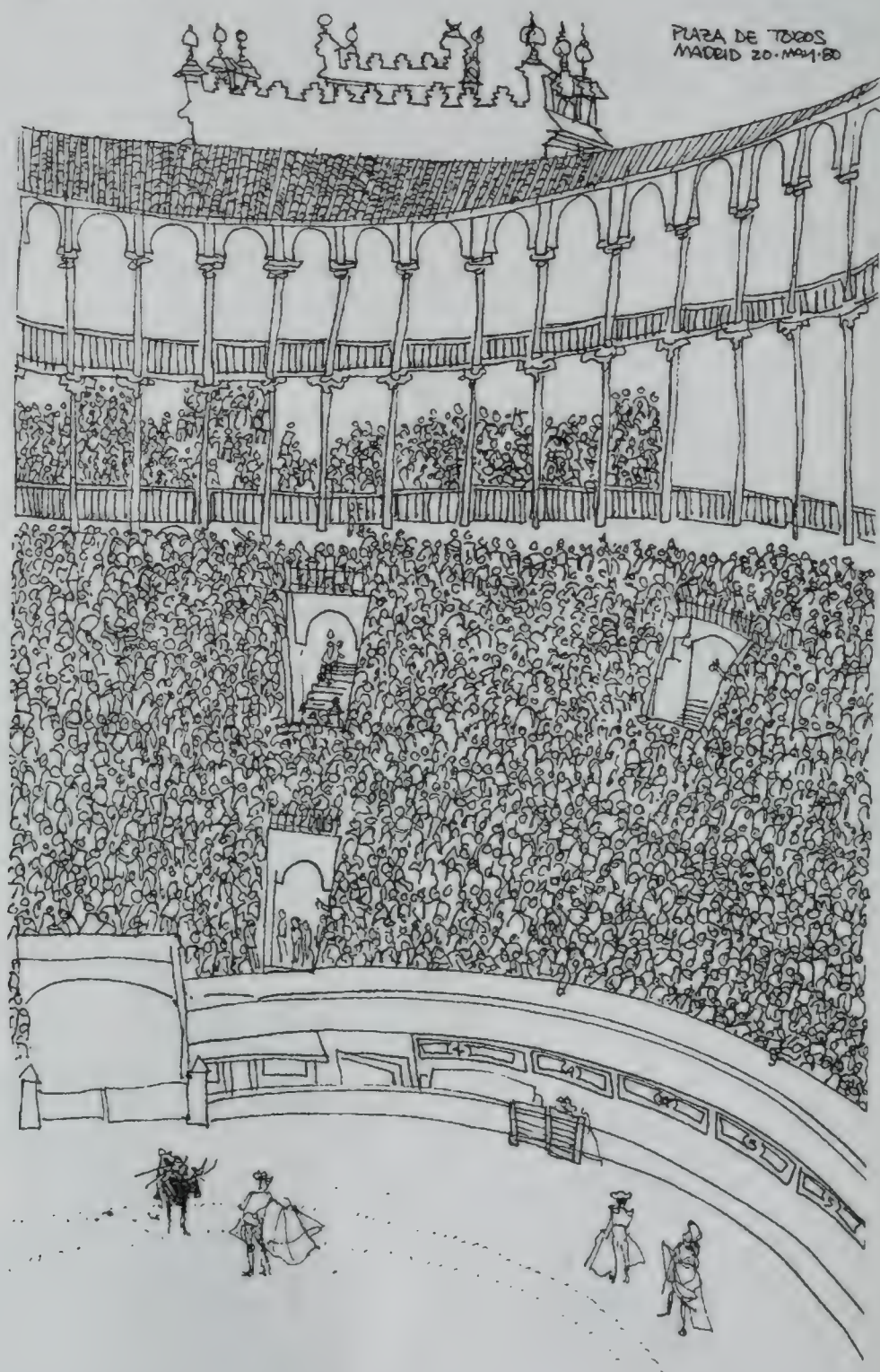
•  
IN CHINA:

EEL PORRIDGE



AS YOU START TO NOTICE NEW THINGS,  
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO COMPARE  
THEM TO THE WAY YOU LIVE IN YOUR TOWN,  
STATE, OR COUNTRY...

"WE NEVER LET THE BULLS LOOSE IN OUR  
TOWN."







PART OF THE FUN OF TRAVEL IS NOTICING  
HOW DIFFERENT AND VARIED PEOPLE ARE.







WHAT IS NORMAL?  
THEY THINK **THEY** ARE NORMAL AND  
**YOU** ARE STRANGE.





"COMMON SENSE IS A BUNDLE  
OF PREJUDICES ACQUIRED BY THE AGE OF  
EIGHTEEN."  
~ALBERT EINSTEIN



WHAT LOOKS STRANGE TO YOU  
MAY BE PERFECTLY NORMAL IN  
THE PLACE YOU ARE VISITING.



FIND OUT THE REASON WHY PEOPLE DO  
SOMETHING THAT SEEMS STRANGE TO YOU.  
SOMETIMES THERE IS NO PARTICULAR  
REASON, OR THE REASON IS SO OLD THAT  
MOST PEOPLE DON'T REMEMBER IT.

WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCES FROM  
YOUR OWN LIFE, YOU'LL PROBABLY  
FIND REMARKABLE UNIVERSALITY ABOUT  
IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE:

- KINDNESS • BABIES •
- ANCESTORS • SPIRITUAL AWE •







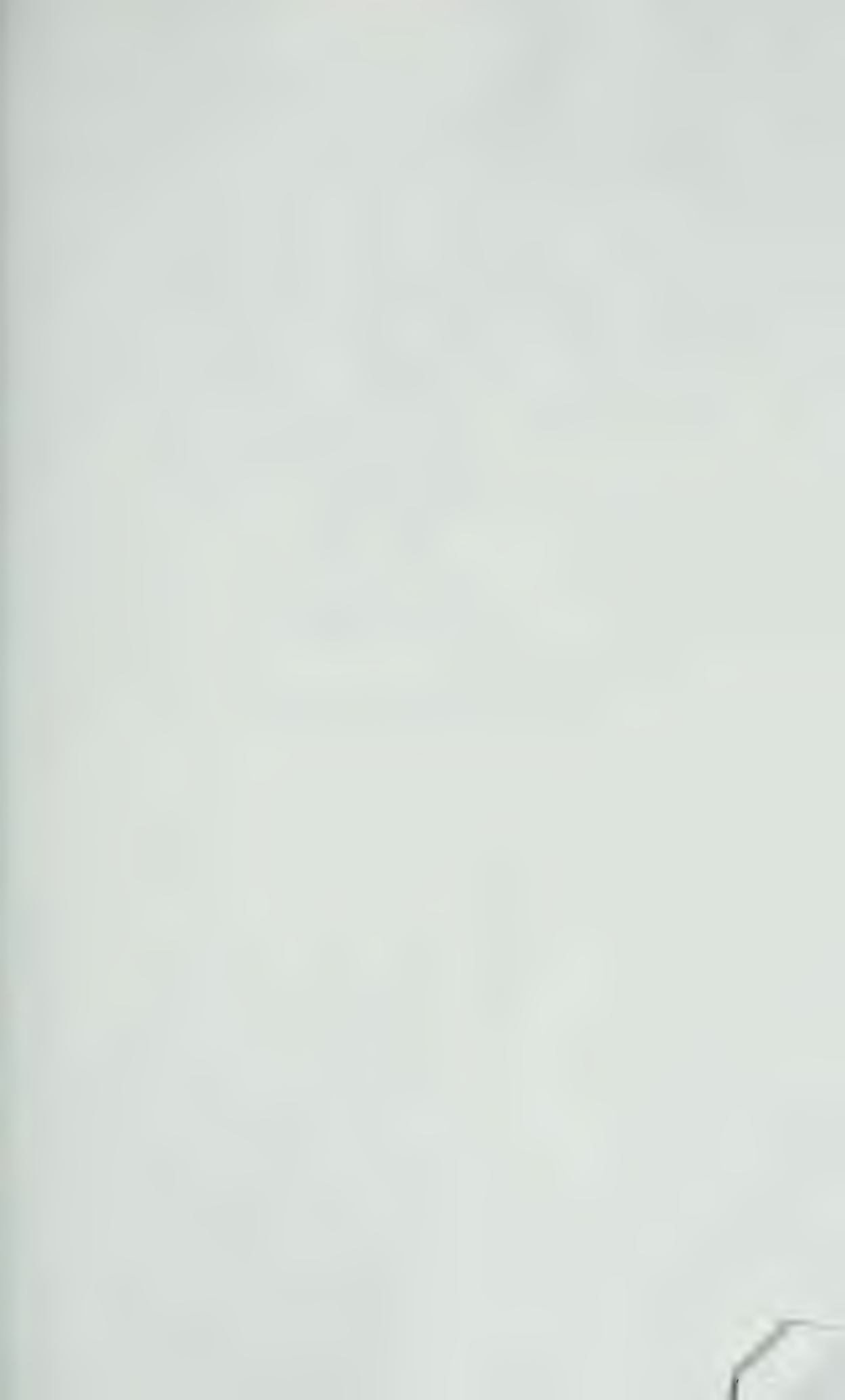
TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN  
IS A BONUS. BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN  
ARE UNIVERSALLY ADORED AND HAVE A  
WAY OF BREAKING DOWN CULTURAL AND  
LANGUAGE BARRIERS.

BESIDES, FOR THEM EVERYDAY LIFE IS SO  
FRESH THAT NEW CULTURES AND CUSTOMS  
ARE JUST PART OF ANOTHER NEW DAY.

NO DAY IS WASTED IF YOU HAVE LAUGHED.



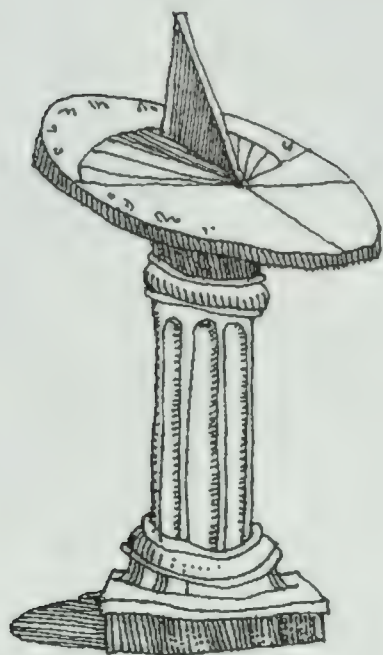




LEARN THE PACE OF LIFE AND THE  
PLACE OF CLOCKS IN THE CULTURE.



"MEET ME AT 4:00, SHARP."



"I'LL BE BACK THIS AFTERNOON...  
OR TOMORROW."

CUSTOMS CAN BE CONFUSING. LEFT HAND?  
RIGHT HAND? BOW OR SHAKE?  
STAND BACK AND WATCH HOW LOCALS DO IT.







CONSIDER HOW THE LOCALS SEE YOU.



Sunday 26 Sept 87 went to Hyde Park Ward for Church. Elder Tackewitz visited and we got to begin singing. Then we went to St Pauls where there was in the middle of a Choral Mass. We sat through the service. The music was beautiful, the organ was wonderful. The singing of the service was a sharp contrast to our Sacrament Mtg. Then we went to Westminster and walked about. The group split up and Cassie & I went to rest in St James' Park.

A CORNER OF  
ST. PAULS

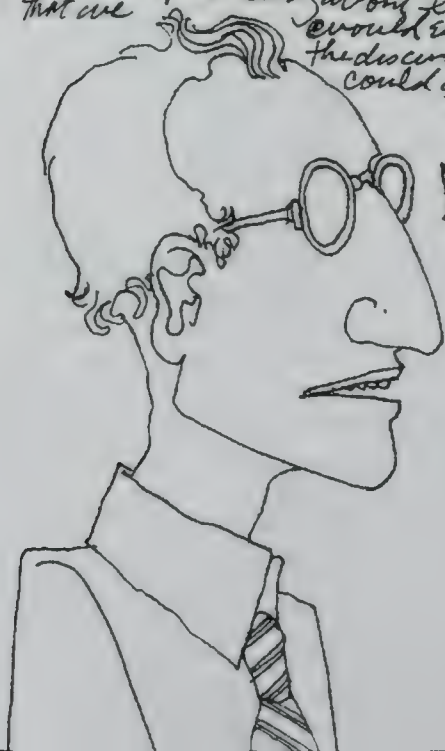
SEE THEIR SACRED PLACES  
THROUGH THEIR EYES.

# WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

USUALLY WE LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S ON THE MENU, BUT SOMETIMES WE CAN'T ASK, AND SOMETIMES WE DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

*we spent the rainiest day of the trip at the National Bird of Prey Center at Newent - as we drove there, the boys were complaining about lunch, to pass the time, and Jon said that we could eat at the Cafe at the center - from there the discussion turned to how many wings they could serve owl!*

**A man at Newent about to eat an owl sandwich**







CHARMING GERMAN  
FRAU WHO BREAKFASTED  
WITH US AT HOTEL IN BRNO.





# TAKE A BREAK IN THE BIG CITY

SIT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE  
TRAIN STATION OR AUTOMAT,  
BUS STOP, CASBAH OR BAZAAR.  
SKETCH OR WRITE A LITTLE  
ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE.



# ALBARRACÍN

Even with rain, this has been a highlight of our trip! ALBARRACÍN is a beautiful village way off the beaten track out of TERNET. Spain has made it a national treasure and UNESCO is looking at it as a world class location like CZEŠKY KRUMLOV. Narrow streets, built on a narrow ridge of rock it is very picturesque. We planned two days here, but the first it rained. Half the group returned to the hotel - 30 min walk from town. We painted all afternoon in our rooms. But the rain stopped in the afternoon and those that stayed did just fine. Next morning - sun! I took a lot of photos both days. In the afternoon we got on the bus and made the four hour trip to MADRID. Everyone is tired but doing well. I could come back to this place and spend a few quiet weeks being inspired.





# LOCAL AUTHORITIES

KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE...  
JUST IN CASE YOU NEED ONE.

A DAY AT THE BEACH CAN BE VERY  
DIFFERENT IN OTHER CULTURES.  
TO SUIT OR NOT TO SUIT...







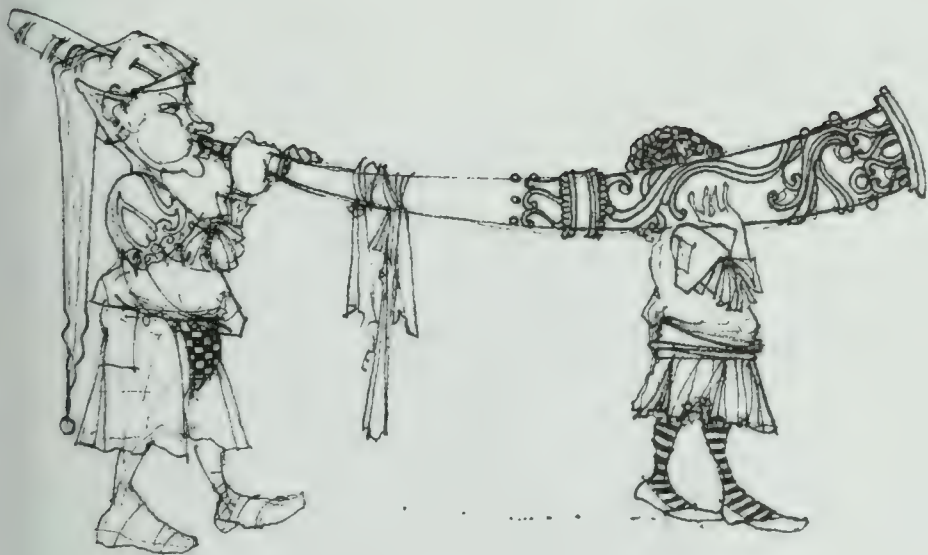
# CEREMONIES

WHAT'S DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CULTURE  
AND WHAT'S THE SAME?

FOR THOSE CEREMONIES YOU CAN'T  
FIGURE OUT, ASK SOMEONE.

CEREMONIES MIGHT BE BASED ON PARTS  
OF THE CULTURE THAT AREN'T VISIBLE ANY-  
MORE IN MODERN LIFE.









# DEALING WITH DEATH

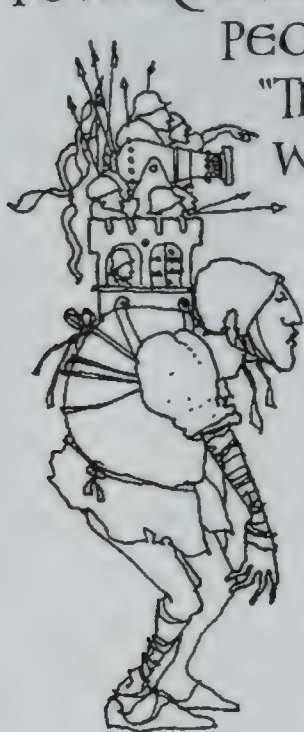
WHAT ARE THE CEREMONIES SURROUND-  
ING DEATH? HOW DOES THE CULTURE  
HONOR THEIR ANCESTORS, AND WHAT  
DOES IT SAY ABOUT THEIR BELIEF IN LIFE  
CYCLES AND ETERNITY?

# LEARN LOCAL LEGEND

YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT A CULTURE FROM THE STORIES THAT ARE PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS.

LEARN THE GEOGRAPHY, TRANSFER OF POWER AMONG PEOPLE AND BETWEEN PEOPLES, WHO WERE

"THE ENEMY," AND  
WHAT WAS WORTH  
GOING TO WAR  
OVER.





NOTICE THE RULES OF THE GAMES CHILD-  
REN PLAY IN THE STREET OR IN THE FIELDS  
OR IN THE PATCH OF DIRT THAT IS THE YARD.







FIND OUT WHOSE PICTURES ARE ON  
THE LOCAL CURRENCY.





WATCH LOCAL  
TELEVISION.  
EVEN IF YOU DONT  
UNDERSTAND THE  
LANGUAGE. FIND  
OUT WHAT'S NEWS  
WHERE YOU ARE.  
AND WHAT DO  
THEY ADVERTISE?





STATUES  
FROM  
LEONARDO

MILO'S  
PIG  
CHOW

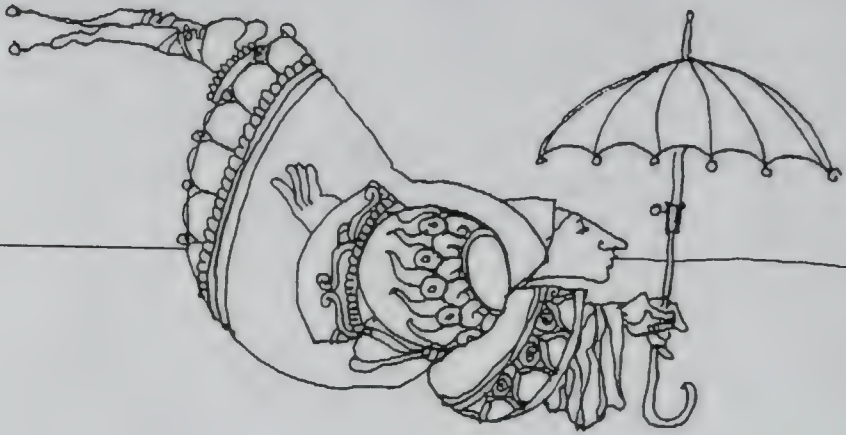


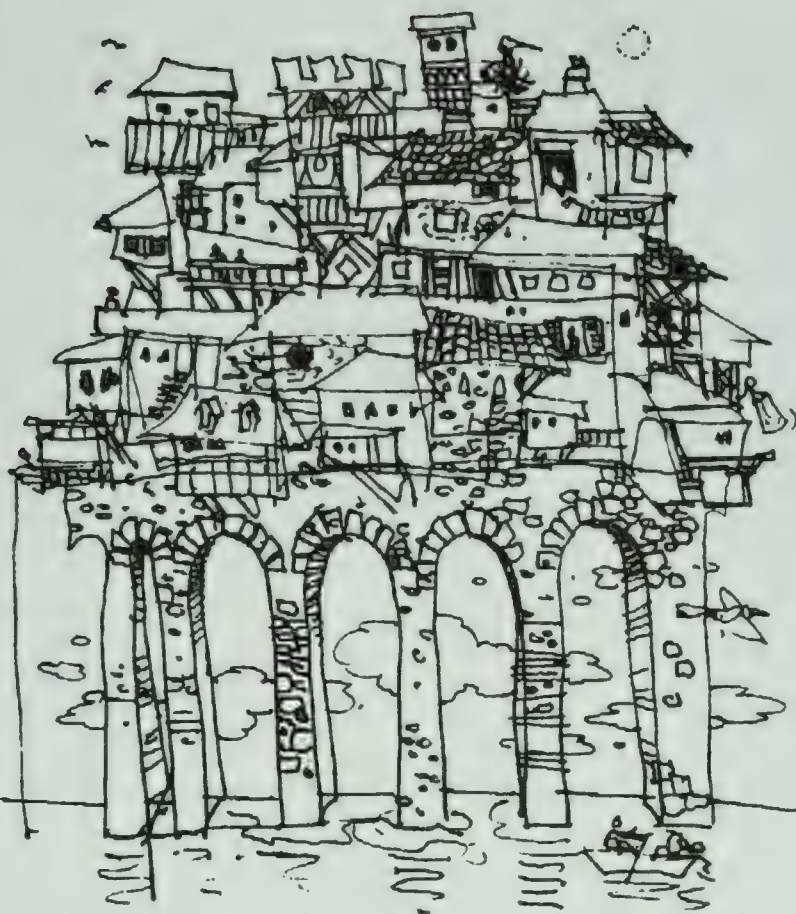
EAT AT  
UCHI'S  
HOUSE  
O'SUSHI

# WEATHER OR NOT...

WEATHER IS MORE THAN FINDING OUT IF YOU  
NEED TO CARRY A SWEATER OR UMBRELLA.  
NOTICE HOW THE AREA'S CLIMATE AFFECTS  
EVERYTHING:

• ARCHITECTURE • DIET • BUSINESS HOURS •  
ORGANIZATION OF DAILY LIFE • EVEN ART

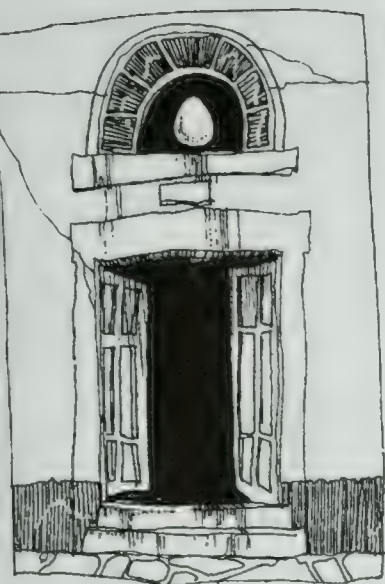




BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
FOR ONE DAY, PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION  
TO DOORS (OR SPIRES OR GARGOYLES  
OR BRIDGES).

WHAT DOES THE WAY THEY ARE BUILT  
OR USED SAY ABOUT THE PLACE YOU  
ARE VISITING?

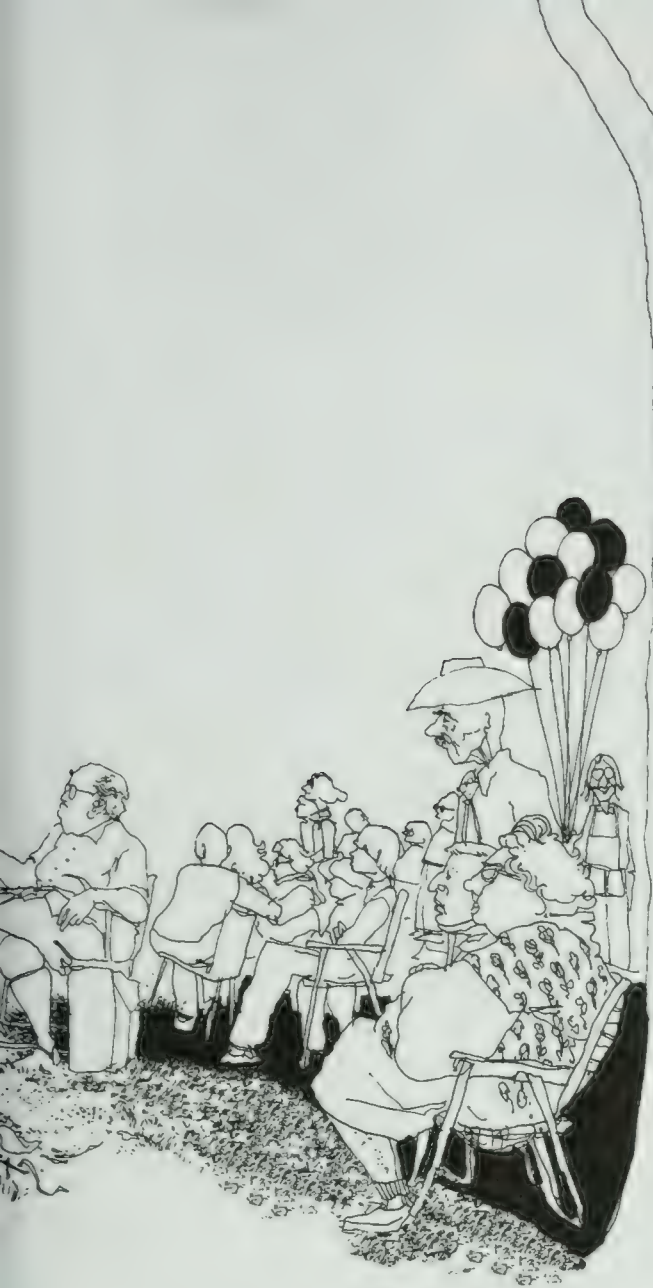




# GO TO THE PARK

HOW DO PEOPLE USE THEIR PUBLIC SPACES?





# WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

PLEASE • THANK YOU • POR FAVOR • DANKE •  
MERCI • HSIEH HSIEH • DOMO ARIGATO





EARLY MORNING BREAK  
GO OUT AT DAWN TO SEE HOW DAILY LIFE  
BEGINS IN YOUR NEW SURROUNDINGS.  
VISIT THE FISH MARKET.





TALK WITH FARMERS OR STREET SWEEPERS.  
GO TO A WATERING HOLE IN THE DESERT.  
GO TO THE RIVER TO SEE WHO VISITS EARLY.





WHERE IN THE WORLD  
SHALL I GO NEXT?





MEMORIES  
WEIGH  
VERY LITTLE.  
COME HOME  
LIGHTEARTED  
AND WHEN YOU  
GET HOME TRY  
TO SEE **YOUR**  
TOWN THROUGH  
**THEIR** EYES.







James C. Christensen was born in 1942 and raised in Culver City, California. He studied painting at Brigham Young University and at the University of California at Los Angeles before finishing his formal education at BYU. He recently retired from BYU after twenty-one years as professor of art.

The artist has been commissioned by both Time/Life Books and *Omni* to create illustrations for their publications, and his work has appeared in the prestigious *American Illustration Annual* and Japan's *Outstanding American Illustrators*. Christensen has also won all the professional art honors the World Science Fiction Convention can bestow, as well as multiple Chesley Awards from the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists.

Christensen's fine art appears in limited edition prints and porcelain from The Greenwich Workshop. His books include *Parables*, with Robert Millet; *A Journey of the Imagination: The Art of James Christensen*; and *Voyage of the Basset*.

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# EXPLORATION

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—JAMES C. CHRISTENSEN

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